

OSWER SUMMER INTERNS – PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS – 2015

1 – Name of Project:

Assisting staff by working on a variety of Corrective Action projects

2 – Project Description

Background of Project Area:

EPA's RCRA Corrective Action Program has set an ambitious goal of largely cleaning up close to 3800 RCRA Subtitle C hazardous waste sites by the year 2020. Contamination and environmental issues at many of these sites should be addressed in a way that reduces impacts on human health and environment, is protective in the long-term, and allows for safe use and anticipated reuse. EPA is also encouraging the consideration of incorporating sustainable and green approaches that reduce use of non-renewable resources. Where possible, anticipated future uses should be identified early in the remedy selection process so that clean up activities can accommodate the anticipated use where possible.

EPA has ten Regions with corrective action staff, and over 40 States are authorized to run their own RCRA Corrective Action programs.

Some of the RCRA Corrective Action program's missions are to develop national policies and to facilitate information exchange, outreach, and technology transfer on approaches for cleaning up and revitalizing RCRA sites. This includes working with State and Regional cleanup programs, researching and analyzing issues, developing policy options, attending and presenting information at various regulatory and association meetings, conducting meetings and panels on specific cleanup topics, and posting information on the web about the cleanup and revitalization of RCRA sites.

Tasks to Be Completed By The Intern:

The interns will work with Corrective Action staff, staff from other EPA headquarters program offices, EPA regional staff and State Agency staff on a variety of activities and projects in order to learn more about the national and State RCRA Corrective Action Programs, gain a working knowledge of various topics and policies related to long-term stewardship, site revitalization, greener cleanups and other topics, and help develop tools/approaches and information materials to help advance cutting edge practices (and achieve RCRA program goals).

Task(s)/assignment(s):

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The interns will be assigned tasks or tasks similar to those listed below. The specific tasks will be agreed upon in the first weeks of their internships and will be based on a matching of each intern's skill set and interests.

- Research and prepare factsheets on specific RCRA cleanup and site reuse projects;
- Research and prepare other outreach materials, such as brochures or internet documents related to corrective action, long-term stewardship, land revitalization and other projects;
- Research, update and draft project descriptions for the RCRA Corrective Action Website;
- Develop meeting materials, assist with logistics for Corrective Action related meetings;
- Participate in EPA project team meetings, represent ORCR;
- Research EPA region and state policies and topics related to specific corrective action issues, develop background material on these topics, and brief management on findings;
- Prepare excel spreadsheets and conduct simple analysis of corrective action sites and cleanup activities;
- Assist in preparing power point presentations

The intern may occasionally also work on other projects in the RCRA program.

3 – What skills are needed for this project:

- Good communication skills, experience working with teams or public;
- Good writing skills, experience preparing short informational documents ;
- Good research skills;
- Basic web researching skills;
- Moderate skills in Excel; and
- Interest/course work in environmental sciences, environmental policy or environmental engineering.

5 – Is travel or training involved? There will be no travel.